VICTORIA, B. C.

VICTORIA, Vancouver Island, capital city of British Columbia, is one of the handsomest cities in the world, and enjoys a climate which for equability and all round appeal is not equalled on the North American continent.

Here is a spot having all the charm of setting afforded by low lying wooded hills, silver and blue sea, and lofty snow-crowned mountains, where flowers and shrubs, rare elsewhere in America, thrive; where the sun shines more than anywhere else in Canada, and where the seasonal range of temperature is only 22 degrees.

Victoria has a daily average of 5½ hours bright sunshine throughout the year. The size of its population is about 50,000. It is widely famous as a residential city, and offers many attractive possibilities for industries.

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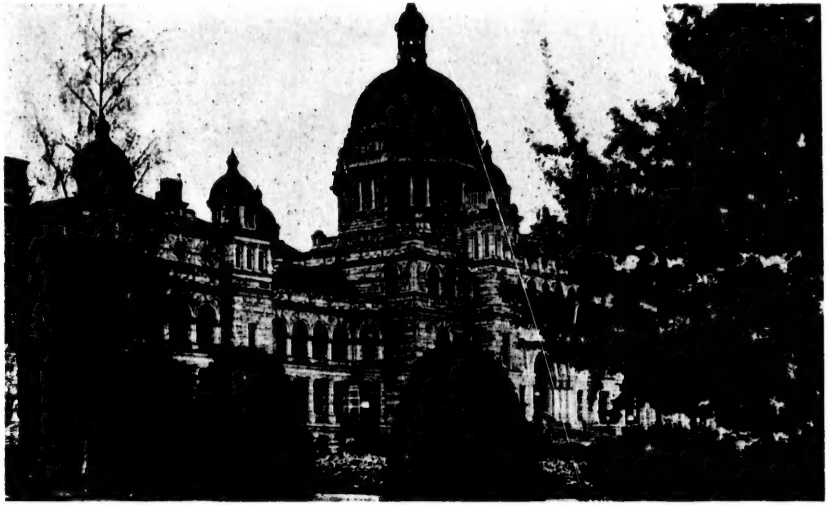
The Parliament Buildings

BRITISH Columbians are quite justly proud of their Parliament Buildings. Surmounted by the guilded figure of Captain Vancouver (after whom Vancouver Island is named), they occupy a striking situation amid lawns and flower-beds. The central or main portion alone appears in the picture, out of sight to the left is the Museum, and to the right the Printing Office. Behind is the Library, and to the rear will be found the Mineralogical Museum housed in the old Legislative Building.



The Parliament Buildings

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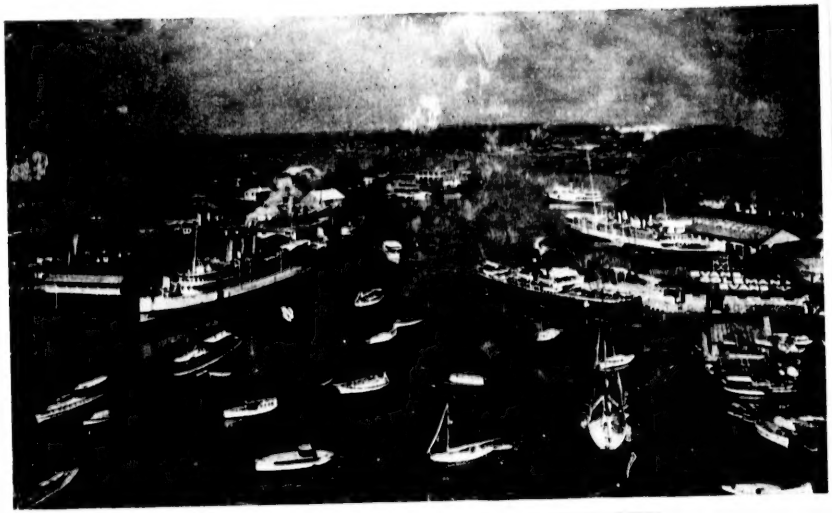
Government House

THE official residence of the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of British Columbia, "Government House" occupies a commanding position overlooking the Straits of Juan de Fuca. On this, the southern side, the ground falls away steeply, adding to the dignity of the situation. Near by is Gonzales Hill, the site of the Government Wireless Station and of the Dominion Meteorological Observatory.

Government House

The Harbor

THE almost land-locked harbor of Victoria is capable of receiving all but the largest ocean-going steamers, for these provision is made at the Ocean Docks at the entrance. The fine lines of steamships operated by the Canadian Pacific and Grand Trunk Pacific Companies berth to the left and right of the picture respectively. Beyond is the old Songhees Reserve, now given up to railways and shipbuilding yards. The protected waters make an excellent anchorage for pleasure craft, and are fully taken advantage of



The Harbor

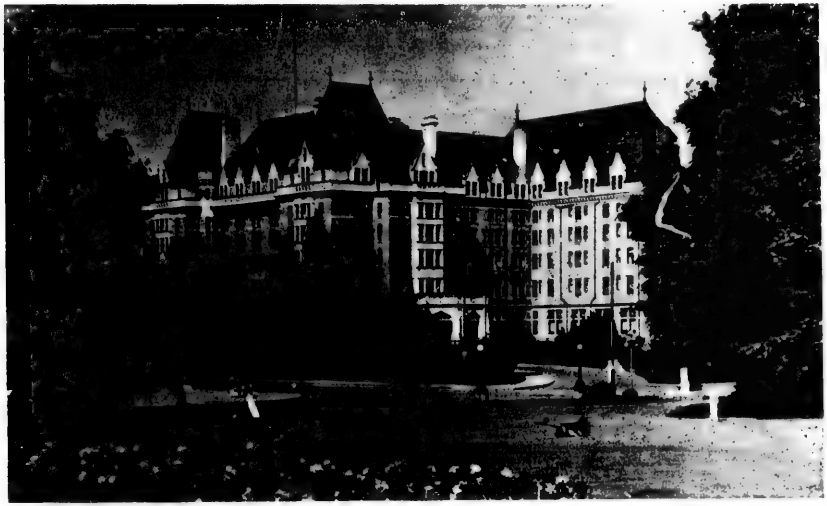
The Inner Harbor and Parliament Buildings

On this view an excellent idea of the stately facade of the Parliament Buildings is obtained. Between the two trees on the right of the centre may be seen a granite obelisk to the memory of Sir James Douglas. Behind the Buildings the Olympic Mountains in the State of Washington are just visible. They form a splendid background to Victoria's scenery, and are generally so clear as to make it hard to realise that their summits are some fifty miles distant.

The Inner Harbor and Parliament Buildings

The Empress Hotel

A FEW years ago the C. P. R. completed its chain of palatial hotels across Canada by the erection of the Empress. Old-time residents recall the site of this stately building as the James Bay flats. The present causeway with its granite sea-wall replaced a wooden bridge, and the flats were filled up by dredging the harbor and conveying the material by large pipes to the desired place. To-day the spacious building with its hundreds of rooms makes it hard to realise the old scene, additionally transfigured by the beautiful lawns and shrubberies.



The Empress Hotel

The Post Office Buildings

NEXT to the Parliament Buildings, among its publ buildings, Victoria is proud of its Post Office. It is a large and striking pile, accommodating not only the Post Office but the Customs as well. The growth of business in Victoria of late years made necessary a large addition to the original building, and it is now thoroughly well-equipped for all purposes

The Post Office Buildings

Hatley Park

HATLEY PARK, the residence of the Hon. James Dunsmuir, is beautifully situated across the Royal Roads and facing the city. Here on a gently sloping hillside the forest has been cleared and this "baronial hall" erected with a magnificent accompaniment of stables and other offices. The owner has been both Lieutenant-Governor and Premier of the Province, but has now retired from public life.

Hatley Park

Beacon Hill Park

NOT content with the many lovely beaches which almost encircle the city, Victorians have a beautiful resort in Beacon Hill Park. The name is due to the fact that in the early days this commanding eminence was used for beacons to warn mariners of dangerous reefs off-shore. The park is a happy combination of the natural and the artificial. The lake shown here is inhabited by swans and ducks, an unfailing source of pleasure to the children.

Beacon Hill Park

The Astrophysical Observatory

AT a distance of eight miles from Victoria is Observatory Hill, with an elevation of 732 feet. Here is situated the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory with its great 72-inch Reflecting Telescope. The latter is housed in a 66-foot dome, a conspicuous object for many miles around. The Victoria district was chosen on account of its large proportion of working nights, and its unusually clear atmospheric conditions, giving "good seeing." The choice has already been justified by important scientific work done with the great telescope.

The Astrophysical Observatory

Lake Scene, Beacon Hill Park

THIS view gives some slight idea of the wealth of trees and shrubbery in Beacon Hill Park. Not only are there noble specimens of the native trees, especially the Douglas Fir, but a large variety of imported trees have been planted out, and prosper exceedingly around the little lakes.

Lake Scene, Beacon Hill Park

Gorge Bridge from the Park

THE arm of the sea on which Victoria is situated extends inland for several miles. At the point shown in the picture it narrows abruptly to a few yards in width, and at the turn of the tide a wonderful view of tumultuous water, which never fails to attract residents as well as visitors, is to be seen. The B. C. Electric Railway Co. have an amusement park here, and the City has a pleasant stretch of wooded lawn from a point in which this picture is taken.

Gorge Bridge from the Park

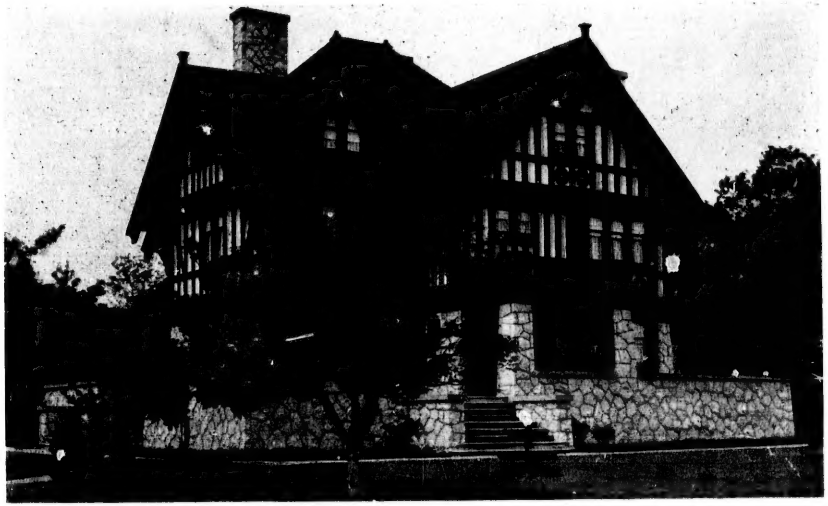
Fountain and Lake, Beacon Hill Park

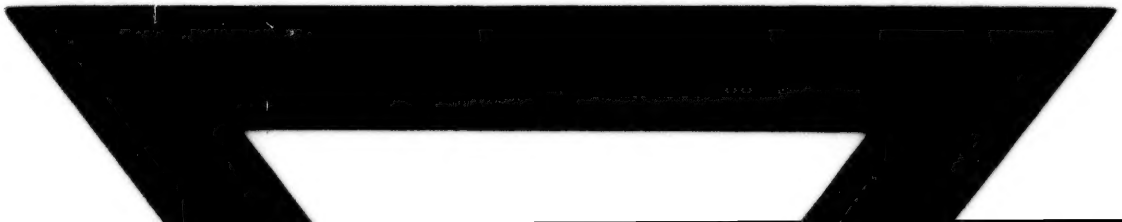
BEACON HILL PARK has a strong natural history appeal. It contains a fine collection of deer in an enclosed paddock, and a few native wild animals in cages. There is also a small aviary. In addition, the little lake in the view is well-stocked with gold and silver fish. The fish, the fountain and the water lilies together make a delightful picture

Fountain and Lake, Beacon Hill Park

A Typical Victoria Residence

VICTORIA has rightly been called "the City of Beautiful Homes." Not only are the houses generally artistic in their form, color and setting, but the absence of the cramped conditions found in many cities gives a sense of freedom and airiness. The gardens are a source of pride to the owners and their fellow-citizens, the climatic conditions making possible the cultivation of a range of flowering plants much wider than is possible anywhere else in the Dominion.



A Typical Victoria Residence

The Clarke Printing Co
Victoria, B. C.